

KOSCIUSKO CHRONICLE.

BY GEORGE W. HARLOW,

"As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man."

EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

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TERMS.

The CHRONICLE is published every Saturday morning, at Two Dollars per annum, invariably in advance.

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Any person who will procure us five subscribers, and forward the amount (\$10) shall be entitled to a sixth copy gratis.

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Job work must be paid for on delivery.

Geography of Mexico--Route to the City.

The N. Y. Sun contains the following description of Mexico, from Matamoros to the Hall of the Montezumas, which cannot but prove interesting at the present time:

The U. S. Army is posted on the left bank of the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoros, at a distance of 90 miles from the coast by the circuitous channel of the river, but only 30 or 40 miles by the route to Point Isabel, a harbor on the coast of Texas about 10 miles north of the Rio Grande. From Matamoros to the city of Mexico there is a good road, with 5 or 10 military posts along the route.

An American army of 50,000 men, crossing the Rio Grande at Matamoros, could readily march through the country to the city of Mexico. Yucatan, on the south, is already in arms against the military despotism governing at the capital, and the people of Vera Cruz and other States of Central Mexico, are clamorous for the recall of Santa Anna (who is now in Cuba) and the restoration of the Republic. The facilities for intercourse with our army, and with the Mexican people, are favorable to the rapid execution of military operations. From Galveson to Point Isabel is 320 miles by water. New Orleans to Point Isabel, 802 miles. New Orleans to Vera Cruz, 1500 miles. Yucatan to the city of Mexico, 900 miles. The population of the city of Mexico is about 180,000. High mountains rise in the distance on all sides of the city, but the location, although under the Tropic of Cancer, is remarkable for its salubrity, and in summer the extreme heat is less severe than in New York or Philadelphia.

The city is approached by excellent roads which branch out in every direction, and on which are transported silver ores and bullions from a hundred of the richest mines in the world. The magnificence of the principal edifices--some being furnished with gold and silver ornaments valued at many millions--and containing rich treasures hid away by the avaricious--has excited the admiration of all travellers. Yet, with all her riches, Mexico is poor. Her people are kept in ignorance by the tyranny of a few, and their wealth is carried off to other lands to swell the gains of trade and commerce which they are not permitted to enjoy. The poor Mexican crawls listlessly over neglected silver mines, lost in the contemplation of his own abject condition. The iron hand of despotism is upon him!

Singular discovery on Chatham Island.--A late English paper says, that a letter received at Lloyd's dated at Guatemala, December 3, 1845, mentions the discovery, by the Captain of the Black Cat, of London, at the Galapagos Islands, of a number of water casks and some spars, which had been carried inland, belonging, apparently, to a vessel of 180 or 200 tons. A heap of cinders was also found, where a fire had been burning, in which valuable sextants, compasses, etc., had been destroyed, along with a quantity of gold buttons to the weight of two ounces, which the captain brought away. Several casks of stores, hard-ware, etc., were found buried near the spot. No accurate conjecture can be formed as to the ship, or as to the cause of her destruction.

Tampico de Tamaulipas.

We have heard, within the last few days, some discussion as to the position, strength, &c., of this Mexican seaport. In the event of an invasion, the possession of Tampico will be an object of paramount importance as a depot for stores for the invading army. As we deem all information concerning this place will be highly interesting, we republish the following from the New Orleans Bulletin:

Tampico de Tamaulipas is situated on a Peninsula or neck of land about four hundred yards wide, formed by the river Panuco on one side, and the Laguna del Carpintero on the other. It is about six miles from the sea. At the mouth of this river, there is an insignificant fortification of three or four old guns, more likely to injure those who discharge them, than those against whom they are directed. The bar at the mouth of the river admits of vessels drawing from seven to nine feet water according to the winds and seasons of the year.

Tampico is susceptible of being made a very strong military position at a very moderate expense, by simply cutting a ditch and running a breast work across the neck of land above and below the town, and strengthening the breast work by bastions at either extremity of the line, at the river and at the lake. On the south-eastern side, or nearest the sea, the land is low, and across the neck a canal has been cut which unites the river with the lake. This canal could readily be made to form the basis of the fortifications on that side. On the upper side or entrance from Altamira, the land is high and offers some remarkably fine sites for defence of that approach, the only approach that could be used by an enemy not having command of the river.

Tampico is not absolutely commanded by any height near enough to throw an effective point blank shot, though from the hills below the town on the opposite side of the river, shots and shells can be thrown into the south-eastern part of the town. Immediately opposite the town, an extensive salt-marsh and lake prevent any approach of an enemy's force.

In its present state of defence, Tampico could make little or no resistance against a force of two thousand men, whilst the same number as a garrison could--when the defensive works above mentioned were completed--by having the command of the river, hold it against any force that could be brought against it.

Tampico, as a trading station, would be of considerable consequence to the commerce of the United States. By the introduction of goods free of duty, prices would then rate so low that the Mexicans would be induced to buy and lay in supplies for the interior, leaving them to evade the peculiar regulations which accompany the goods and oppose obstacles to their free transit.

In a military point of view, the occupation of Tampico would be more important. Although the direct road to Mexico is nearly impracticable, being for the greater part a series of d files and rugged mountains, over which loaded mules with difficulty make their way, the road to San Luis Potosi, though difficult, is not impracticable. Wagons and artillery can be driven to the foot of the Chamal mountain, about eight or ten days march from Tampico. Here they can be taken to pieces and in course of a single day be transported to the other side in the valley of Santa Barbara. From thence, the only and most important obstruction is the Sierra Madre, to cross which mountains a greater effort must be made and more time consumed; but, the passes once secured, labor, industry and perseverance will do the rest. It is to be remarked that, at this point, all danger and all difficulty arising from the climate wholly ceases. The valley of Santa Barbara furnishes an abundant supply of Indian corn and cattle. Once over the Sierra Madre, you are in the table land (the tierra, templada,) with abundant supplies of corn and cattle, and a carriage road to San Luis and to Mexico. May our brave volunteers soon be treading that road.

"Is that the tune the old cow died off?" asked an Englishman, nettled at the industry with which a New Englander whistled Yankee Doodle. "No, beef," replied Jonathan, "that are's the tune Old Bull died off!"

Proposed Steam Armada for the Gulf of Mexico.

A scheme for constructing a certain number of armed steam vessels, to be called the "Valley Steam Fleet," intending to issue from the Mississippi, and operate in the Gulf of Mexico, offensively and defensively, has, it is said, been before the Government for some time. In regard to the details of this proposition the New Orleans Commercial Times makes the following statement:

"It appears that it has been proposed to construct a dozen iron steamers, of such magnitude that they will each present a battery on one deck--to use the words of the projector--'more formidable than the Pennsylvania ship of the line.'" These vessels will have a draft of water sufficiently small to admit of their crossing the bar of the Mississippi, and pass in and out eight Southern harbors with equal facility. Their capacity will be 3,000 tons each, being 500 tons greater than the Great Britain, at present the largest steamship in the world. They cannot be sunk by shot; are capable of carrying provisions and water for six months for a crew of 700 men; and in case of offensive operations being decided on, are susceptible of receiving each 10,000 troops on board. Such a fleet, with the powerful armament designed for it, would command the Gulf against the combined navies of the world; and would throw, if necessary, 120,000 men on any point--Cuba, or the adjacent foreign islands--skirt the highway of communication between our Atlantic sisters of the Republic, and make the Gulf as much our property as if it were a lake within our own territory. The 'Valley Fleet' would form an invulnerable line of battle for its defence, across the Strait of Florida, and command the rear to their place of construction and supplies, to wit the Valley of the Mississippi. The plan is a magnificent one, worthy this great Republic, and although many, no doubt, will hastily take it as the dreamy wanderings of a heated imagination--an army of 120,000 men, borne by a fleet of twelve iron vessels--yet has it been so far proved feasible, that there is now a model of a vessel, of this precise description, at Pittsburg, which dures the scrutiny of the most intelligent, the most enquiring, the most sceptical."

FATE OF THE APOSTLES.--St. Matthew, the Apostle and Evangelist, is supposed to have suffered martyrdom, or to have been slain with a sword at a city in Ethiopia. St. Mark was dragged through the streets of Alexandria, in Egypt, until he expired. St. Luke was hanged upon an olive tree in Greece. St. John was put into a caldron of boiling oil and escaped death; he afterwards died a natural death at Ephesus. St. Peter was crucified at Rome, his head downwards, at his own request, thinking himself unworthy to die in the same posture and manner as his blessed master. St. James the Great was beheaded at Jerusalem. St. James the Less was thrown from a pinnacle or tower wing of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club. St. Philip was hanged up against a pillar at Hierapolis, a city of Phrygia. St. Bartholomew was flayed alive by command of a barbarous king. St. Andrew was bound to a cross, whence he preached to the people until he expired. St. Thomas was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel, in the East Indies. St. Jud was shot to death with arrows. St. Simon Zelotes was crucified in Persia. St. Matthias was first stoned and then beheaded. St. Barnabas, of the Gentiles, was stoned to death by the Jews at Salonicia. St. Paul was beheaded at Rome by Nero.

INTERESTING TO STEAMBOAT MEN.--Mr. Wilder, of Detroit, has invented and patented a new Steamboat Telegraph. Instead of the present method of several bells, the captain above telegraphs to the Engineer below by moving an indicator over the dial plate, upon which five points are marked--"stop, fast, ahead, slow, back." A movement corresponding to that indicated at the captain's position is instantly communicated on a similar plate to the Engineer below, and an alarm stroke of a small bell sounds as the indicator reaches that point.

Captain May.

This gallant officer has immortalized himself. A friend who has watched his equestrian movements at the camp, describes him as a most singular being. With a beard extending to his breast, and hair to his hip-bone, which, as he cuts through the wind on his charger, streams out in all directions, he presents a most imposing appearance. His gait on foot is awkward, and that of his horse (an immense one) is the rack of the Canadian pony. We are glad to quote the annexed paragraph from the N. O. Courier:--"We have seen a letter from this gallant officer to his brother, in this city, dated Point Isabel, May 13. It was received last Sunday by the Col. Harney. The Captain tells his brother that the squadron, at the head of which he charged the enemy's battery, contained 82 men; and of these he lost one officer and 10 privates killed, and 13 wounded--28 horses killed and 10 wounded--that nearly one-third of his men, and almost half of his horses were put hors du combat. The Captain himself was not touched, which fortunate circumstance was owing to his being about ten yards in advance of his squadron in the charge."

The Captain was born at the city of Washington, where his father, Dr. May, who died a few months ago, was highly respected by his fellow citizens of all classes; he left six or seven sons; all fine-looking men, not one of them under six feet in height. The Captain, who has so highly distinguished himself in the late operations on the Rio Grande, some years ago, when quite a youth, attracted the notice of Gen. Jackson by his fine horsemanship, and the old chief appointed him a cornet in one of the regiments of dragoons, then organizing. The General was a good judge of men, and in the instance of young May, his presentment has been fully verified. [Troy.]

One of the most interesting accounts of the natural history of the hedgehog, is that given in 1831, by Mr. Lenz, and which is confirmed by Prof. Bland; that is that the most violent poisons have no effect upon it--a fact which renders it of peculiar value in the forests where it appears to destroy a great number of noxious reptiles. Mr. Lenz said he had once in his house a female hedgehog, which he had kept in a large box, and which soon became very familiar. He often put in the box some adders, which she attacked with great avidity, seizing them by the body, the head and the tail, and did not appear alarmed or embarrassed when they coiled themselves around her body. Neither herself, nor the young she was suckling, seemed to suffer from the bites of the venomous reptiles.

Pallas assures us that the hedgehog without experiencing any of the effects which that insect produces on men, dogs or cats. A German physician who made the hedgehog a peculiar object of study, gave it a strong dose of prussic acid, of arsenic, of opium, and of corrosive sublimate, none of which did it harm. The hedgehog, in its natural state, only feeds on pears, apples, and other fruits, when it can get nothing it likes better. Its ordinary food consists of worms, slugs, snails and adders.

A NAME TO LIVE.--How few who live will be remembered after death! Not one in a thousand will be mentioned thirty years after he sleeps in the grave. Not one in ten thousand in fifty years, and not one in a million in a century. Of the 800,000,000 who now live on the earth, a dozen pages will be sufficient to record the names of those who will be remembered a few centuries hence. This is an affecting truth, and yet what multitudes are striving to make themselves notorious for the sake of an earthly immortality.

One of our exchanges says, it is a popular delusion to believe that powder on a lady's face has the same effect as on the pan of a musket--assists her to go off.

An old gentleman, last spring, planted his onions close to his poppies, and the consequence was, he says, that they grew so sleepy that he could never get them out of their bed.

[From the N. O. Reformer.]

To Printers--The War--Volunteers!!

"It is said that about thirty printers have enrolled themselves for Texas. This will leave a good opening for printers from other places. Printer's wages are better in New Orleans than any other part of the world."

The above paragraph is from the Jeffersonian of yesterday morning. It is copied verbatim. The last sentence is very obscure, but the meaning of the other portion is sufficiently clear. And the undersigned on behalf of the regular printers of New Orleans, take this method of informing their fellow-craftsmen at a distance, that the above paragraph conveys an incorrect impression, whether intentional or not, we leave others to judge, contenting ourselves by merely stating that this establishment is not now, nor never has been, recognised by the regular printers of this city.

We conceive we should do great wrong did we allow the above statement to go the rounds of the country uncontradicted, thereby being the means of inducing a great many printers to leave places where they are comfortably situated, and come to this city in the summer months, with no prospect of getting employment, but a fair prospect of falling victims to the epidemic. We should consider such conduct cruel in the extreme.

We would inform the printers throughout the United States, that notwithstanding a large number of our fellow craftsmen have promptly responded to the call of their country, and shouldered the muskets to defend her soil, there is still left a sufficient number to do the work during the summer months. Some of the papers may, perhaps, be a little embarrassed for a short time, but it will only be temporarily, for the business season is now pretty well over, and the work on the papers is daily falling off. Besides, those printers who have joined the army in Mexico, will be back here in six months, and such of them as may be fortunate enough to survive the campaign, will return here just in time for the next business season; and certainly every feeling of patriotism and gratitude will dictate to those who may have the bestowal of employment, that they should give the preference to the brave defenders of the country.

For these reasons, we conceive it our duty to advise printers not to come here this summer to seek employment, for if they do they will certainly be bitterly disappointed.

Whether or not the Jeffersonian concern may want printers, we cannot say, for, as we have before stated, it is not recognized by the regular printers of the city; but we know that all the regular establishments can get through the summer without any additional journeymen.

JAMES RISK,

President N. O. T. A.

LEW. ZUEBLIN, Secretary.

Editors throughout the country, by inserting the above, will do no one the slightest injury, and confer a favor on the brave printers who have joined the army to fight their country's battle.

BABIES IN CHURCH.--Babies are fine things--in their places. We like them at home in the nursery--the only proper place for that class of juveniles coming under the denomination of babies. But in church babies are nuisances. Now crowing, now crying, constantly keeping up some noise or other, they distract the attention of the audience and disturb the nerves of the speaker. Gingerbread will sometimes keep them quiet, but not often. Babies never sleep in church--not they. They are as wide awake as weasels, but by no means as still. Some fond mothers take their babies to church for the purpose of showing them. This is a bad policy. Nobody, except the doating parents, ever sees any beauty in babies at church. We never saw a baby yet, however smart at home, that did credit to itself in a public assembly. It would be sure to do something to make every body hate it before the meeting was half over. Mothers, therefore, who wish to preserve the characters of their babies, for being well behaved and quiet babies, should never take them to church, or--into a stage coach.

TIME.--Time is what we want most, but what we use worst, for which we must all account, when time is no more.